

Theresa Rice

From: Diane Berry on behalf of PCD
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2011 8:15 AM
To: Kathy Cook; Libby Hudson; Ryan Ericson; Theresa Rice
Subject: FW: Shoreline Science
Attachments: 2011 SMP Comments on Science to Council from Flora.pdf

From: Bainbridge Citizens [<mailto:gary@tripp.net>]
Sent: Sunday, August 07, 2011 11:47 AM
To: *Bainbridge Citizens
Subject: Shoreline Science

In the update of the SMP, the City is required to consider "Science". That is, real science: peer reviewed relevant research with numerical and reproducible test results.

Don Flora, PhD, has reviewed the science offered by the City and found it lacking.

Dr. Flora was previously the Researcher In Charge for forest stream buffers studies at several forestry research laboratories in the Northwest, Oregon and Alaska. In the last 9 years, he has reviewed nearly 4000 research papers on buffers and related subjects.

His recommendation to the City Council and Planning Commission is to view the science for upland residential buffers and tidewater habitats with skepticism. The full justification for this skepticism is contained in the well researched and footnoted paper(s) attached.

He correctly observes that buffers are an extremely expensive and inefficient use of land. There are good alternatives to buffers including: Low-Impact Development, grassy lawns, abstinence from using chemicals, and proper maintenance of septic systems.

I tried to write a summary of Dr. Flora's papers but it is very difficult to do justice in summarizing his work. So here goes.

Among Dr. Flora's comments are:

1. It is inappropriate to use buffer science from;
 - a. agriculture, feedlots, and logging,
 - b. the Midwest and East where they experience heavy rains during the summer months; and,
 - c. logging near the headwaters of streams.
2. Residential buffers won't increase the abundance of salmon, cod, herring, surf smelt, kelp, or eelgrass;
3. Grass is the best mediator of residential stormwater, chemicals and sediment;
4. 80% of pollutants are restrained in the first 16 feet;
5. Human uses are important for gathering and playing;
6. There is no advantage requiring native species;
7. Terrestrial insects only account for 2% of the diet of young salmon and only on the few days while they are on their way to the Ocean;
8. Shading beaches is not important and the only place surf smelt spawn in the summer is on the treeless south side of Wing Point;
9. Trees on or near slopes create a hazard; and,
10. On Bainbridge there is no correlation between residential uses and the health of the beach.

I encourage you to read Flora's full comments. Attached.

Bainbridge Citizens

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